

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INT-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 GSA-01 /075 W

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R 021200Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9024

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 3883

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN, JM

SUBJECT: BAUXITE INDUSTRY LABOR PROBLEMS

REF: KINGSTON 3857, 3813

1. GOJ MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND FOREIGN TRADE PATTERSON TOLD AMBASSADOR ON OCTOBER 1 THAT GOJ "ACUTELY AWARE" STRIKE AND GO-SLOW SITUATION REPORTED REFTELS. CABINET DURING A "RETREAT MEETING" THIS PAST WEEKEND HAD SUBJECT AT TOP OF ITS AGENDA. PATTERSON CLAIMED THERE IS UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN UNION LEADERS AND GOJ OF WHAT IS ACHIEVABLE BUT THIS "UNDERSTANDING" NOT SHARED BY WORKERS WHO NEED BE EDUCATED. HE ALSO COMMENTED A MAJOR PROBLEM FROM GOJ'S POINT OF VIEW IS ORIGINAL COMPANY OFFERS TO UNIONS WERE HIGHER THAN NATION-WIDE WAGE GUIDELINES NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY GOJ. (HE ADDED GOJ INTENDS ANNOUNCE

NEW NATION-WIDE WAGE PLAN GUIDELINES ON OCTOBER 8.

2. AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT PRESENT WAGES ALREADY APPROACH U.S. STANDARDS WHILE PRODUCTIVITY OF JAMAICAN BAUXITE LABOR FORCE ESTIMATED TO BE ONLY ABOUT HALF OF AMERICAN. WAGE DEMANDS OF UNIONS, IF ACCEPTED, WOULD TAKE JAMAICAN BAUXITE LABORERS WELL BEYOND AMERICAN STANDARDS. PATTERSON ACKNOWLEDGED FOREGOING BUT POINTED OUT PRESENT CONTRACTS

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ABOUT TWO YEARS OLD. WHILE WAGES ESTABLISHED WERE INI-

TIALLY VERY HIGH BY JAMAICAN STANDARDS, INFLATION HAS TAKEN

ITS TOLL. OTHER EMPLOYMENT SECTORS ARE CATCHING
UP, E.G. PORT AUTHORITY WORKERS' WAGES NOW APPROACH THOSE
OF BAUXITE INDUSTRY.
GERARD

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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